

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-3110

Oblates African American Survey District

Baltimore County, MD

1829, 1962

Oblates African American Survey District includes only the Oblate Sisters of Providence boarding school near Arbutus in the Thirteenth District of Baltimore County. Oblate Sisters of Providence began under the guidance of Elizabeth Lange and the proprietorship of Father Joubert. Elizabeth Lange, a black Haitian refugee fled to the United States and settled in Baltimore in 1827. Already teaching children in her own home school, Joubert approached Lange with the idea of creating an order for African American women to educate the black children of Baltimore. Following the approval from the Archbishop of Baltimore, a novitiate began in 1828. Pope Gregory XVI approved the order in 1831 under the title of Oblate Sisters of Providence. The Oblate Congregation was the first order established for black women in the history of the Catholic Church.

Oblates African American Survey District is centered on the education building of the Oblates Sisters of Providence. The present building, constructed 1962, is four stories high and measures twenty bays across. This large brick building is capped with a flat roof and is clad with a brick stretcher bond veneer. The windows are 2/2 wood-sash with horizontal panes. The first story windows are supported with square-edged concrete sills. The upper stories are detailed with concrete surrounds including the sills and lintels. The center projecting section is four bays wide and is clad with a stone veneer. Situated to the south of the education building is a circa 1930 wood-frame house that maintains offices and a day care for the Oblates institution.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3110

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Oblates African American Survey District (preferred)
other Oblate Sisters of Providence

2. Location

street and number 701 Gun Road not for publication
city, town Arbutus X vicinity
county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Oblate Sisters of Providence
street and number 701 Gun Road telephone Not Available
city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21227

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 108/139
city, town Towson liber folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category		Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district		<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	2	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site			<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		objects
			<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	2	Total
			<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
			<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
			<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
					Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
					0	

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Oblates African American Survey District is centered on the education building of the Oblates Sisters of Providence. It is located west of I-95 and east of Gun Road south of the small town of Arbutus. Oblates is sited on a level grassy lot surrounded by a foundation plantings, trees, and shrubs, with a parking lot to the rear and front. The present building, constructed 1962, is four stories high and measures twenty bays across. This large brick building is capped with a flat roof and is clad with a brick stretcher bond veneer. The windows are 2/2 wood-sash with horizontal panes. The first story windows are supported with square-edged concrete sills. The upper stories are detailed with concrete surrounds including the sills and lintels. The center projecting section is four bays wide and is clad with a stone veneer. A large cross is centered between the third floor bays. Double-leaf metal doors provide access into the entrance hall.

Situated to the south of the education building is a circa 1930 wood-frame house that maintains offices and a day care for the Oblates institution. The façade of the building appears to be the north elevation, however, the L-shaped footprint of the building suggests the façade was originally the east elevation. This building is one-and-a-half stories high and measures five bays wide. The foundation is not visible and the building is clad with wood shingles and is capped with a cross-gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Rising above the roof is a louvered vent cupola. This building features overhanging eaves, and exposed roof rafters. A long rectangular addition was constructed on the west elevation.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-3110

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1829, 1962

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1962

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Oblates African American Survey District includes only the Oblate Sisters of Providence boarding school near Arbutus in the Thirteenth District of Baltimore County. The Thirteenth District of Baltimore County is the smallest in area in the county. Its proximity to the Baltimore City line infiltrates the district with a dense suburban population. According to Scharf in 1881, the Thirteenth District amounted to 3,314 people an increase of sixty-five percent from 1870. The District is bounded by the Middle Branch of the Patapsco to the east, to the south is the Patapsco, on the west by the First District, and on the north by the First District and Baltimore City. In 1881, the major towns of the district included Mount Winans and St. Denis. (1)

Oblate Sisters of Providence began under the guidance of Elizabeth Lange and the proprietorship of Father Joubert. Elizabeth Lange, a black Haitian refugee fled to the United States in 1817. Settling in Baltimore in 1827, Lange was one of many French speaking Haitian refugees in the city. By 1793, approximately 1,500 Haitians lived in Baltimore with one third of those of African origins. (2) This sizable group of émigrés centered their religious and social life around St. Mary's Seminary Chapel in Baltimore. This establishment was organized by the Sulpicians, émigrés from revolutionary France.

Elizabeth Lange recognized the lack of an educational system to assist the French-speaking black children from Haiti. Public schools for African American children did not exist in Maryland prior to 1872. Much of the education of black children during the early to mid-19th century occurred under the guidance of the local church. Noticing this as a problem, especially for the children who could not speak English, Lange set up a school in her own house with the assistance of another refugee, Marie Magdalene Balas. At the time when Elizabeth Lange's school opened there were eleven boarders and nine day students.(3)

A second prominent figure in starting the Oblate Sisters of Providence Order was Father Jacques Hector Nicholas Joubert. Joubert, a French refugee during the revolution of 1796, fled to Baltimore to enter St. Mary's Seminary. Joubert, a Sulpician Priest, was assigned the pastoral charge of the refugees. Noticing the difficulty of the children to learn the catechism due to a language barrier, Joubert recognized a need for a separate order in order to form a schooling system. Already teaching children in her own home school, Joubert approached Lange with the idea of creating an order for African American women to educate the black children of Baltimore. Following the approval from the Archbishop of Baltimore, a novitiate began on July 2, 1828. Sister Mary Elisabeth was the superior and Father Joubert was appointed the director. Pope Gregory XVI approved the order on October 2, 1831 under the title of Oblate Sisters of Providence.(4) The Oblate Congregation was the first order established for black women in the history of the Catholic Church.

Three other women assisted Elizabeth Lange in getting the convent started: Elizabeth Balas, Rosina Boegue, and Almaide Duchemin. Each of these women came from the Caribbean and later became Catholic nuns when they fled to the United States. Elizabeth Balas, later known as Sister Marie Frances, originated from San Domingo, and was a teacher in Lange's school. Also from San Domingo, Rosina Boegue, also known as Sister Mary Rose, became a teacher in Lange's school. Almaide Duchemin, one

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Name Oblates African American Survey District (preferred)

Continuation Sheet

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of the original boarders at Lange's school, became known as Sister Theresa.

In later years, particularly after the Civil War (1861-1865), Sister Elizabeth founded other schools in Baltimore and established schools in Philadelphia, and New Orleans. Several years prior to her death in 1882 she formed the order's first mission school in St. Louis, Missouri. By 1911, the Oblate Sisters of Providence conducted schools and orphanages in Baltimore, Washington, Leavenworth, and Normandy (Missouri). Outside of the United States there were four schools in Cuba, two in Havana, one in Santa Clara, and one in Cardenas. At this time, there were a total of 130 sisters, 9 novices, and 7 postulants.(5)

According to the Sidney Atlas of 1850 there were no buildings at the location of the Oblates African American Survey District on Gun Road near Arbutus. The 1877 Hopkins Atlas depicts Sulphur Spring Road extending south to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. A few of the estates in the area include John C. Smith of 'Waveland,' E. Treuth, S. Bealman of 'Reverie,' and H.D. Farnandis of 'Overton.' Avalon Station is sited at the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.(6)

The Bromley Atlas of 1915 shows the Avalon Station, a pumping station, and the Baltimore County Water and Electric Company below the train tracks. The residents in the area in 1915 include J. Benns, John Berger, A.R. White, J.H. Burke, John Cloyton, Lewis H. Gundry of 'Matley-Hill Sanitarium,' C.W. Fite, Joseph F. Hinds of 'Reveries,' the estate of William T. Randle, and J.J. Donaldson.(7)

The Manning Estate on Gun Road was used by the Oblate Sisters of Providence from 1934 to 1945. This building was destroyed by fire in 1945 and the current building was constructed in 1962.

CHAIN OF TITLE

May 22, 1934 Joseph J. Rochlitz and wife to Oblate Sisters of Providence
Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber CWB, Jr. 933 Folio 2

April 5, 1965 Edgar E. and Jean A. Bezold to Oblate Sisters of Providence
Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber 4447 Folio 288

ENDNOTES

1. Thomas J. Scharf, "History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men," (Philadelphia, Louis H. Everts: 1881, Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.) p. 936.
2. Joan Anderson, "Biography of Elizabeth Clovis Lange, (c. 1784-1882): Founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence." Taken from Baltimore City Community College website: <http://www.erols.com/bcccsbs/bbpoh/ecl.htm>, April 1, 2003.
3. Louis S. Diggs, In Our Voices: A Folk History in Legacy. Uptown Press, Towson: 2000.
4. Magdalen Graton, "Oblate Sisters of Providence." The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. XI. Transcribed by Christine J. Murray. Robert Appleton Company, 1911. www.newadvent.org/cathen/11184a.htm Online Edition, 2003.
5. Graton, 1911.

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6. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

7. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 44.96 acres

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name Relay, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Oblates African American Survey District is located near Arbutus in the Thirteenth District of Baltimore County. It is associated with the property of the Oblate Sisters of Providence at 701 Gun Road at tax map 108 parcel 139.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historian

organization E.H.T. Traceries

date 4:02:03 AM

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, NW

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

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Anderson, Joan A. "Biography of Elizabeth Clovis Lange, (c. 1784-1882): Founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence." Content Copyright 1996, Revised, December 28, 1998. Taken from Baltimore City Community College website: <http://www.erols.com/bcccsbs/bbpoh/ecl.htm>, April 1, 2003.

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

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Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. "A History of Baltimore County." Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Diggs, Louis S. "In Our Voices: A Folk History in Legacy." Uptown Press, 1998.

Graton, Magdalen. "Oblate Sisters of Providence." The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. XI. Transcribed by Christine J. Murray. Robert Appleton Company, 1911. www.newadvent.org/cathen/11184a.htm Online Edition, 2003.

Hine, Darlene Clark. "Elizabeth Clovis Lange and The Oblate Sisters of Providence." From "Black Women in America; An Historical Encyclopedia." Carlson Publishing Co., 1993. Taken from website www.awomanaweek.com/lange.htm, April 1, 2003.

James, Ellen L. "Enclave Residents Facing Problems of Long Neglect, Housing and Survival." The Evening Sun: Baltimore, October 24, 1977.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

"Oblate Sisters Of Providence." Taken from website: <http://members.aol.com/aliceosp/>, April 1, 2003.

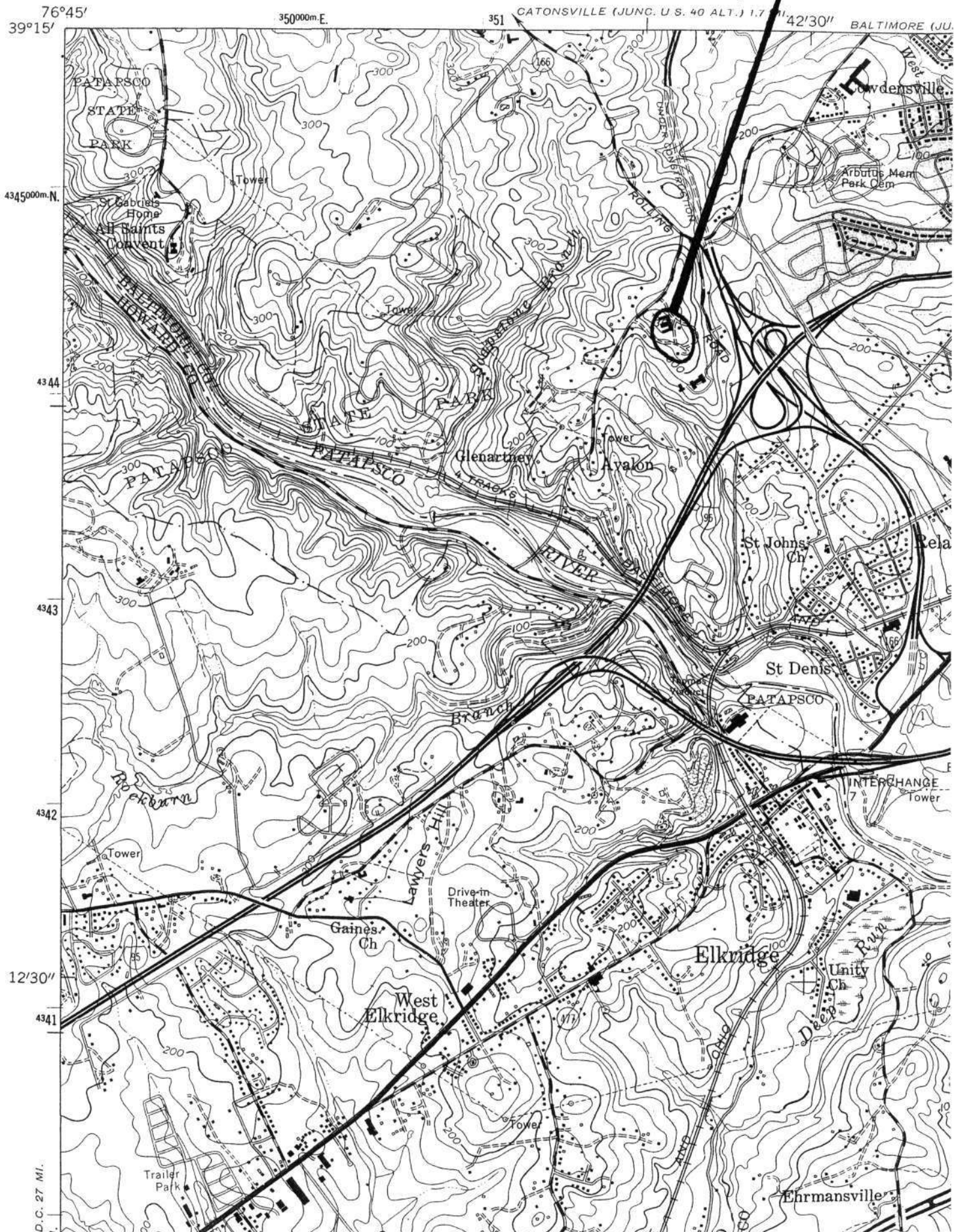
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Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

5682 IV SE
(ELLICOTT CITY)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BA-3110
Oblates African American Survey
District
Baltimore County, MD
Relay USGS Map





BA-311D

OBLATES AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
ARBUS
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPD

701 GUN ROAD, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST

1 of 3



BA-3110

OBLATES AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRALERIES

3/2003

MD SHPO

701 Gun Road, VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST

2 of 3



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OBLATES AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRALERIES
3/2003
MD SHPO
HOUSE, NORTH ELEVATION
3 of 3